

Allow me to precede the canned commentary with some of my own thoughts. With the FCC being led by a conservative administration (for the time-being), there was the mistaken belief that concentrating ownership of TV stations that use the airwaves owned by the American people was a good thing. While I'm pleased the legislation failed (maybe for the wrong reasons), I fear that under a second Bush administration the effort will get new life. I strongly object to corporate domination of broadcast TV and radio. The current actions, not to mention their previous refusal to air Nightline's Roll Call of the Fallen, by Sinclair flesh that out in the starkest of terms.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.